AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 25 with the following replacement paragraph:

--Positioning piston 2 is designed in the form of a hollow cylinder. A constriction 38 on the inner periphery of positioning piston 2 is located between conical sleeve 13 proximal to the combustion chamber and an end 2a of positioning piston 2 distal from the combustion chamber. An inner thread 39 is formed in the area of constriction 38, which engages with a mating outer thread 40 on a threaded bolt 41. Threaded bolt 41 is situated concentrically within positioning piston 2. Outer thread 40 extends via a threaded segment ~~31~~ axially to threaded bolt 41 and engages, at least partially, with outer thread 40.--.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 1 with the following replacement paragraph:

--Threaded bolt 41 is axially connected to valve stem 5 in a form-fitting manner so it is able to rotate in the peripheral direction. For this purpose, conical clamping sleeve 13 and wedge pieces 6, 7 extend beyond stem end 5a of valve stem 5, surrounding end 41a of threaded bolt 41 proximal to the combustion chamber. At least one radial projection ~~42~~, which in the present example is designed as an annular bulge engaging radially in at least one depression ~~43~~ on the outer periphery of threaded bolt 41, is provided in the area of end 41a on the inner periphery of clamping wedge 11. Depression ~~43~~ is designed in the present example as an annular groove and there are a total of three axially equidistant bulges ~~42~~ situated on clamping wedge 11 and three mating grooves ~~43~~ on threaded bolt 41 which radially engage with bulges ~~42~~.--.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 14 with the following replacement paragraph:

--The applicability of the present invention is not limited to the above-described exemplary embodiment. Thus, numerous modification options of the specific embodiment are conceivable, which do not essentially alter the inventive idea. Thus, positioning piston 2 may be installed more or less completely in actuator housing 20. The number of grooves ~~9, 43~~ and bulges ~~8, 42~~ may vary. The grooves and bulges may also be formed on another component without modifying the operating principle

of the valve actuator. The points of application of the wrenches may be designed differently from the above-described embodiment.--.